

Message Text

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63

ACTION AF-18

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RSC-01 /039 W

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R 081145Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1930

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INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 210

LAGOS FOR FAA

CASABLANCA FOR CAA

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BPRO ETRN MR US

SUBRE: AIR MAURITANIE SIGNS FIVE-YEAR MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
WITH HUGHES AIR WEST

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 0126

1. AIR WEST VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS ED ALTMAS HAS SIGNED A FIVE-YEAR 3.75 MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT FOR AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE WITH AIR MAURITANIE. THE CONTRACT, SIGNED ON MARCH 7, PROVIDES FOR UP TO 11 RESIDENT AMERICAN TECHNICIANS AND ONE MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR. IT IS RENEQABLE FOR ANOTHER FIVE YEARS AND CONTAINS PROVISION FOR YEARLY REVIEWS ON COST ESCALATION. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTEL), THE FIRST FOUR AIR WEST TECHNICIANS ARRIVE IN MAY, WITH SEVEN OTHERS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE-JULY. ALL LOCAL MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR AIR MAURITANIE'S PRESENT SIX-PLANE FLEET (TWO DC-4S THREE DC-3S, AND A PIPER) HAVE UP TO NOW BEEN HANDLED BY A SINGLE FRENCH MECHANIC CONTRACTED FROM AIR FRANCE, WITH MAJOR REPAIRS DONE BY AIR FRANCE IN DAKAR. TWO USED F-27 PROP JETS TO BE ACQUIRED SOON BY AIR MAURITANIE FORMERLY BELONGED TO AIR WEST.

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2. AIR WEST IS ALSO BIDDING FOR THE SALES CONTRACT ON A USED DC-9 EXECUTIVE JET FOR MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH. THEY ARE COMPETING WITH A US BROKER (AIR INTERCONTINENTAL--INTERNATIONAL LEASE FINANCE CORP), WHICH IS OFFERING A NEW FOLKER F-28 JET. GIRM OFFICIALS TOLD AIR WEST VEEP ALTMAN THEY WOULD RESPOND TO HIS OFFER WITHIN 20-30 DAYS. FRENCH AND OTHER EUROPEAN FIRMS ALSO PROBABLY BIDDING ON THIS CONTRACT.

3. ALTMAN WILL CONTACT DEPARTMENT AF/N UPON HIS RETURN TO THE STATES NEXT WEEK. SHURTLEFF

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